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| | | Filing Date | April 12, 2004 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Kurt R. Goldsmith |
| | | Art Unit | 2829 |
| | | Examiner Name | Vinh P. Nguyen |
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| ENCLOSURES (check all that apply) | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | | |

| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | |
|--|--|
| Firm or Individual name | Angelo J. Gaz, Reg. No. 45,907 BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP |
| Signature | |
| Date | October 16, 2006 |

| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION | | | |
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| Signature | | Date | October 16, 2006 |



FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2005

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

Complete if Known

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|----------------------|-------------------|
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| First Named Inventor | Kurt R. Goldsmith |
| Examiner Name | Vinh P. Nguyen |
| Art Unit | 2829 |
| Attorney Docket No. | 42P18726 |

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 0.00

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ None ☐ Other (please identify): _____

☒ Deposit Account Deposit Account Number: 02-2666 Deposit Account Name: Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP

For the above-identified deposit account, the Director is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply)

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under 37 CFR §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.18 and 1.20.

FEE CALCULATION

1. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

| Total Claims | Extra Claims | Fee from below | Fee Paid |
|--------------------|--------------|---|----------|
| 27 | 33* | 0 | \$0.00 |
| 3 | 4* | 0 | \$0.00 |
| Multiple Dependent | | | |
| Large Entity | Small Entity | | |
| Fee Code | Fee Code | Fee Description | |
| 1202 50 | 2202 25 | Claims in excess of 20 | |
| 1201 200 | 2201 100 | Independent claims in excess of 3 | |
| 1203 360 | 2203 180 | Multiple Dependent claim, if not paid | |
| 1204 790 | 2204 395 | **Reissue independent claims over original patent | |
| 1205 300 | 2205 150 | **Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent | |
| SUBTOTAL (1) | | (\$) | 0.00 |

*or number previously paid, if greater, For Reissues, see below

2. ADDITIONAL FEES

| Large Entity | Small Entity | Fee Description |
|--------------|--------------|--|
| Fee Code | Fee Code | Fee Description |
| 1051 130 | 2051 65 | Surcharge - late filing fee or oath |
| 1052 50 | 2052 25 | Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet. |
| 2053 130 | 2053 130 | Non-English specification |
| 1251 120 | 2251 60 | Extension for reply within first month |
| 1252 450 | 2252 225 | Extension for reply within second month |
| 1253 1,020 | 2253 510 | Extension for reply within third month |
| 1254 1,590 | 2254 795 | Extension for reply within fourth month |
| 1255 2,160 | 2255 1,080 | Extension for reply within fifth month |
| 1401 500 | 2401 250 | Notice of Appeal |
| ✓ 1402 | 2402 | Filing a brief in support of an appeal |
| 1403 | 2403 | Request for oral hearing |
| 1451 | 2451 | Petition to institute a public use proceeding |
| 1460 | 2460 | Petitions to the Commissioner |
| 1807 50 | 1807 50 | Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q) |
| 1806 180 | 1806 180 | Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt |
| 1809 790 | 1809 395 | Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a)) |
| 1810 790 | 2810 395 | For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b)) |

Other fee (specify) _____

SUBTOTAL (2)

Fee Paid

500.00

(\$) 500.00

SUBMITTED BY

Complete (if applicable)

| | | | | | |
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PATENT
Attorney's Docket No. 042390.P18726

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application for:

Kurt R. Goldsmith, et al.

Serial No.: 10/823,049

Filed: April 12, 2004

For: **SOCKET COVER AND TEST
INTERFACE**

Examiner: Nguyen, Vinh P.

Art Unit: 2829

Confirmation No.: 4091

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant (hereinafter "Appellant") submits one copy of the following Appeal Brief pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.192 for consideration by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Attached please find a check for \$500.00 to cover the cost of filing the opening brief as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(b)(2). Please charge any additional amount due or credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 02-2666.

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Kurt R. Goldsmith and James J. Grealish, the parties named in the caption, transferred their rights to that which is disclosed in the subject application "Socket Cover and Test Interface" to Intel Corporation of Santa Clara, California. Thus, as the owner at the time the brief is being filed, Intel Corporation of Santa Clara, California is the real party in interest.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals or interferences that will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-24 and 34-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8, 11-15, 17-24 and 34 are rejected. Claims 1-4, 8-19, 20-24 and 34-36 are objected to. Claims 1-24 and 34-36 are appealed herein.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Appellant submits herewith amendments to claim 8, line 10 and claim 20, line 12 to cure a typographical omission of the term "a" before the term "size". Appellant submits that this amendment is to present rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal as noted in Section 1206.I.(C) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. Appellant notes that the amendments herein were previously submitted to the Patent Office (see Response to Final Office Action mailed July 7, 2006), but not entered (see Advisory Action dated July 20, 2006) for unknown reasons.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Three independent claims (claims 1, 8, and 20) are presented in this appeal.

Independent claim 1 describes an apparatus comprising:

a first side including a generally planar surface and one of conductive pads and trace pads surrounding the generally planar surface such that the generally planar surface is accessible to a pick-and-place vacuum force attachment; (see Appellant's specification first side 148 including a generally planar surface 154 and one of conductive pads 142-144 and trace pads 142-144 surrounding the generally planar surface such that the generally planar surface is accessible (see planar surface 154 of Figures 1 and 3) to a pick-and-place vacuum force attachment; at least as shown in Figures 1-3 and described at paragraphs [0009], [0015], [0017], [0019], [0028], [0029] and [0031], without limitation thereto)

a lid portion including the first side and having a dimension at least large enough to cover or extend over a plurality of contacts of a socket; (see Appellant's specification lid portion 150 including the first side 148 and having a dimension (length L, width W, area, and/or thickness T) at least large enough to cover or extend over a plurality of contacts 132-134 of a socket 130; at least as shown in Figures 1-3 and described in paragraphs [0010] and [0013]-[0014], without limitation thereto)

a test device portion integral with the lid portion, the test device portion having a plurality of energy conduits to provide a response to a plurality of energy stimuli to a second side disposed opposite the first side. (see Appellant's specification test device portion 152 integral with lid portion 150, the test device portion having a plurality of energy conduits 122-124 to provide a response (as "returning signal" as described in paragraph 32) to a plurality of energy stimuli (stimuli described at paragraph 32) to a second side 118 disposed opposite the first side; at least as shown in Figures 1-3 and described at paragraphs [0010], [0017], [0027] and [0032], without limitation thereto)

Independent claim 8 describes an apparatus comprising:

a first side forming a generally planar surface and a second side disposed opposite the first side, the second side having a dimension suitable to be removably coupled to a socket; (see Appellant's specification first side 148 forming generally planar surface 154 and second side 118 disposed opposite the first side, the second side

having a dimension (length L, width W, area, and/or thickness T) suitable to be removably coupled to socket 130; at least as shown in Figures 1-3 and described in paragraphs [0007], [0009] and [0013]-[0015], without limitation thereto)

a lid portion including the first side and having a dimension at least large enough to cover a cavity and a plurality of contacts of the socket; (see Appellant's specification lid portion 150 including the first side 148 and having a dimension (length L, width W, area, and/or thickness T) at least large enough to cover a cavity 136 and a plurality of contacts 132-134 of a socket 130; at least as shown in Figures 1-3 and described in paragraphs [0009]-[0010], [0013]-[0014] and [0016], without limitation thereto)

a test device portion integral with the lid portion, the test device portion having a plurality of energy conduits to receive a plurality of energy stimuli from a plurality of contacts of the socket and to provide a response to the contacts; and (see Appellant's specification test device portion 152 integral with lid portion 150, the test device portion having a plurality of energy conduits 122-124 to receive (receiving described at paragraph 17) a plurality of energy stimuli (stimuli described at paragraph 32) from a plurality of contacts 132-134 of the socket 130 and to provide a response (response described at paragraph 32) to contacts 132-134; at least as shown in Figures 1-3 and described at paragraphs [0010], [0017]-[0018], [0027] and [0032], without limitation thereto)

the apparatus having a size that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth of an inner dimension of the cavity. (see Appellant's specification apparatus 110 having size (a dimension, maximum size, width W, length L, thickness T, and/or height such as extending from the topmost surface of energy conduit device 142 to a bottommost surface of stimuli transfer zone 112) that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth (a depth of socket 130 above socket contact 132 and below the portion of retainer 170 contacting socket 130) of an inner dimension of cavity 136; at least as shown in Figures 1-3 and described in paragraphs 9, 10, 13-14, 16, 30-31 and 34-35, without limitation thereto)

Dependent claim 12 describes the apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

the second side has a plurality of contacts to electrically coupled to the contacts of the socket. (see Appellant's specification second side 118 has a plurality of contacts (see stimuli transfer zones 112-114) to electrically coupled to the contacts 132-134 of the socket 130; at least as shown in Figures 1-2 and described at paragraphs [0016]-[0019], without limitation thereto)

Independent claim 20 describes a system comprising:

a printed circuit board (PCB); (see Appellant's specification PCB 180; at least as shown in Figure 2 and described in paragraph 21, without limitation thereto)

a socket coupled to the PCB, the socket having a cavity and a plurality of contacts within the cavity to electronically couple to a computing device; (see Appellant's specification socket 130 coupled to PCB 180, the socket having a cavity 136 (the cavity of socket 130 occupied by apparatus 110) and a plurality of contacts 132-34 within the cavity to electrically couple to a computing device (apparatus 110 and/or a processor); at least as shown in Figures 1-2 and described at paragraphs [0009]-[0014], [0016] and [0022], without limitation thereto)

an apparatus removably coupled to the socket, the apparatus comprising: (see Appellant's specification apparatus 110 removably coupled to socket 130; at least as shown in Figures 1-2 and described in paragraphs [0009]-[0011], without limitation thereto)

a lid portion having a dimension at least large enough to cover the cavity; (see Appellant's specification lid portion 150 having a dimension (length L, width W, area, and/or thickness T) at least large enough to cover or extend over the cavity 136; at least as shown in Figures 1-3 and described in paragraphs [0009]-[0010], [0013]-[0014] and [0016] without limitation thereto)

a test device portion integral with a lid portion, the test device portion having a plurality of energy conduits electronically coupled to the plurality of contacts of the socket to provide a response to the contacts for a plurality of

energy stimuli received from the contacts; and the apparatus having a size that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth of an inner dimension of the cavity. (see Appellant's specification test device portion 152 integral with lid portion 150, the test device portion having a plurality of energy conduits 122-124 electrically coupled to a plurality of contacts 132-134 of socket 130 to provide a response (as "returning signal" as described in paragraph [0032]) to contacts 132-134 for a plurality of energy stimuli (stimuli described at paragraph [0032]) received (received described at paragraph [0017]) from contacts 132-134; and apparatus 110 having a size (a dimension, maximum size, width W, length L, thickness T and/or height such as extending from the topmost surface of energy conduit device 142 to a bottommost surface of stimuli transfer zone 112) that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth (a depth of socket 130 above socket contact 132 and below the portion of retainer 170 contacting socket 130) of an inner dimension of cavity 136; at least as shown in Figures 1-3 and described at paragraphs [0009]-[0011], [0016]-[0017], [0022], [0027] and [0032], without limitation thereto)

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The grounds of rejection involved in this appeal are as follows:

Claims 1-7 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 1-4, 8-19, 20-24 and 34-16 are objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,436,570 to Tan (Tan).

Claims 8, 11-15 and 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tan.

VII. ARGUMENT

A. Overview of the Prior Art

1. Overview of Tan

Tan describes a test probe having a test body 20 and test head 22 including printed circuit board walls 2, each wall having a plurality of stainless steel pins 15 embedded therein to contact socket pins of an IC socket (see Abstract; and col. 2, lines 48 through col. 3, lines 20). Tan teaches and shows in Figure 4 that head 22 is much greater in depth than the depth of the cavity of socket 21 (e.g., in the vertical direction). On the other end of test body 20, Tan teaches ends of test terminals 4 extending well above testing end 5 for accommodating cable connection headers 10 which attach to the terminals (see Figures 1 and 3; and col. 3, lines 40-52). Specifically, Tan teaches testing end 5 of probe body 20 including a plurality of slots 23 for accommodating cable connection headers 10 (see col. 3, lines 40-52). Each of headers 10 is attached to eighteen of test terminals 4 (see col. 3, line 50 and Figures 1 and 3).

Test terminals 4 extend a distance above end 5 that is many times greater than the width of a terminal, so as to be attached to by header 10 (see col. 3, line 50 and Figures 1 and 3). Tan teaches terminals 4 extending well above end 5 for connection with cable connection 10 which receives and covers terminals 4, end 5, and part of body 20 (see Figure 3). In a process according to Tan, first, a test probe is coupled electrically to test equipment; second, an IC device is removed from an IC socket; and then, the test probe takes the place of the IC device in the socket (see col. 1, lines 15-26). Tan teaches header 10 as the attachment to body 20 (see Tan Fig. 3).

B. Rejection of Claims 1-7 and 34 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Patent Office rejects claims 1-7 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement because it appears that the original specification does not have support for “a generally planar surface and one

of conductive pads and trace pads surrounding the generally planar surface such that the generally planer surface is accessible to a pick-and-place adapted to be attached to via a vacuum force attachment” as claimed in claim 1.

1. Claims 1-7 and 34

Appellant respectfully disagrees with the rejection above and submit that claims 1-7 and 34 (e.g., as claims 2-7 and 34 depend from claim 1) are allowable for at least the reason that claim 1 is supported by the specification as originally filed (e.g., for example, without limitation thereto, see at least paragraphs [0009], [0015], [0017], [0019], [0028]-[0029], and [0031]; and figures 1-4 of the Application as originally filed). The specification and figures, as filed, describe and show various embodiments of energy conduits 122-124. For example, in some embodiments, energy conduits 122-124 may include electrical contacts, active electronic devices, and/or electrical signal traces (see paragraph [0017] lines [0009]-[0016]). Also, energy conduits 122-124 may be formed of or include a trace pad (see paragraph [0019] lines 1-4) and/or a conductive pad (see paragraph 19 lines 5-8). Also, in some cases, energy conduit devices 142-144 may be part of energy conduits 122-124 (see paragraph [0025] lines 7-8). More specifically, in some cases, devices 142-144 may be described as contacts, such as where conduits 122-124 have contacts 142-144 (see paragraph [0029] lines 5-6). Thus, conduits 122-124 may be formed of or include trace pads or conductive pads (see paragraph [0019]).

However, the Patent Office’s interpretation that “it appears that the conductive pads and trace pads are different from the energy conduit devices” (see item 2 of the Final Office Action mailed May 9, 2006) is inaccurate. First, claim 1 does not claim “energy conduit devices,” but claims “energy conduits” (e.g., conduits 122-124). Moreover, as noted above, those conduits may be formed of or include conductive pads or trace pads. For instance, in some embodiments, the conductive pad or trace pad of an energy conduit may be in the form of a contact, such as contacts 142-144 shown in Fig. 3 and described in paragraph [0029]. It is noted that descriptions above provide examples of claim terms, without limitation thereto. Hence, Appellant respectfully requests the Board overturn the rejection above.

C. Objection to Claims 1-4, 8-19, 20-24 and 34-36 for Informalities

The Patent Office objects to claims 1-4, 8-19, 20-24 and 34-36 because of informalities.

1. Claims 1-4 and 34

For claim 1, the Patent Office states that “it is unclear how the conductive pads and trace pads are associated and interrelated with the energy conduits or energy conduit devices (142-144).” Appellant respectfully disagrees with the objection above and submits that claims 1-4 and 34 (e.g., as claims 2-4 and 34 depend from claim 1) are allowable for at least the reason that it is clear how the conductive pads and trace pads are associated and interrelated with the energy conduits or energy conduit devices (142-144). An argument analogous to the one above with respect to claim 1 and the written description requirement applies here as well. The conductive pads and trace pads may be an example of an energy conduit device (e.g., 142-144) and/or a contact (e.g., 142-144) which may form or be part of the claimed energy conduits (e.g., 122-124). Hence, for at least this reason, Appellant respectfully requests the Board overturn the objection above.

2. Claims 8-19, 20-24 and 35-36

For claims 8 and 20 the Patent Office states that “it is unclear which part of apparatus having size that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth of an inner dimension of the cavity.” Appellant respectfully disagrees with the objection above and submits that claims 8-19, 20-24 and 30-35 (e.g., as claims 9-19 and 35 depend from claim 8; and claims 21-24 and 36 depend from claim 20) are clear as to which part of the apparatus has a size that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth of an inner dimension of the cavity. The specification and figures, as filed, give various examples of embodiments having a size as noted above for claim 8. For example, the size referred to above may be a total maximum size of the apparatus in height or thickness, such as extending from the topmost surface of first side 148 or energy conduit

device 142 to a bottommost surface of second side 118 or stimuli transfer zone 112 (see fig. 2) such that retainer 170 may close over apparatus 110 (see figs. 1-2).

Moreover, Appellant points out that for example, in amended claims 8 and 20 (using claim 8 as representative of claims 8 and 20) “the apparatus having a size that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth of an inner dimension of the cavity” may refer to the size of energy conduit 122 of apparatus 110 having a depth (a depth including a depth of energy conduit device 142, thickness T, and stimuli transfer zone 112, as shown in the vertical direction of Fig. 2 of Appellant’s specification) that is smaller or equal in depth (in the vertical direction of Fig. 2 of Appellant’s specification) as compared to a depth of an inner dimension of socket cavity 136 of socket 130 (a depth of socket 130 above socket contact 132 and below the portion of retainer 170 contacting socket 130, as shown in the vertical direction of Fig. 2 of Appellant’s specification).

Appellant points out that the example above is not limiting, as various other depths that satisfy the feature “apparatus having a size that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth of an inner dimension of the cavity” may also be appropriate, such as those described and/or shown in various examples in the specification, claims and figures of the Application, as originally filed (see paragraphs [0009], [0010], [0013]-[0014], [0030]-[0031], and [0034]-[0035]; and shown in figures 1-4). Such size may refer to the maximum depth of apparatus 110 (including energy conduits 122-124, energy conduit devices 142-144, thickness T between first side 148 and second side 118, and stimuli transfer zones 112-114, as shown in the vertical direction of Fig. 2 of Appellant’s specification) that does not extend above the upper surface of the walls of socket 130, and thus does not prohibit retainer 170 from being locked over apparatus 110 within socket 130 by lock 139 as shown in Figures 1 and 2. It is noted that descriptions above provide examples of claim terms, without limitation thereto. Hence, for at least the reasons explained above, Appellant respectfully requests the Board overturn the objection above.

3. Claim 12

For claim 12 the Patent Office states that “it is unclear what ‘a plurality of contacts’ comprises of.” Appellant points out that upon reading line 10 of paragraph [0017] of the Application, a practitioner in the arts would find clear that the energy conduits may include electrical contacts. Specifically, without limitation thereto, the contacts of claim 12 may be represented by stimuli transfer zones 112-114 as shown in fig. 2 (which may be part of energy conduits 122-124 as described in paragraph [0016] lines 1-7), which may form electrical contacts (see paragraph [0017] lines 6-10) which may form electrical contact to or be electrically attached to contacts 132-134 of socket 130 (see paragraph [0017] lines 6-9). Hence, for at least the reasons explained above, Appellant respectfully requests the Board overturn the objection above of claim 12.

D. Rejection of Claims 1-7 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Patent Office rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,436,570 to Tan (Tan).

1. Claims 1-7

Appellant respectfully disagrees with the rejection above and submit that claims 1-7 (e.g., as claims 2-7 depend from claim 1) are allowable for at least the reason that the cited reference does not disclose a first side including a generally planar surface and one of conductive pads and trace pads surrounding the generally planar surface such that the generally planer surface is accessible to a pick-and-place vacuum force attachment, as required by claim 1.

Tan describes a test probe having a test body 20 and test head 22 comprising printed circuit board wall 2, each having a plurality of stainless steel pins 15 embedded therein to contact socket pins of an IC socket (see Abstract; and col. 2, lines 48 through col. 3, lines 20). On the other end of test body 20, Tan teaches ends of test terminals 4 extending well above testing end 5 for accommodating cable connection headers 10 which attach to the terminals (see Figures 1 and 3; and col. 3, lines 40-52). Tan teaches testing end 5 of probe body 20 comprising a plurality of slots 23 for accommodating

cable connection headers 10 (see col. 3, lines 40-52). Thus, each of headers 10 is attached to eighteen of test terminals 4 (see col. 3, line 50 and Figures 1 and 3).

Consequently, the Patent Office has not identified and Appellant is unable to find any teaching or suggestion of a generally planar surface and one of conductive pads and trace pads surrounding the generally planar surface as required by claim 1. On the other hand, as shown in Figure 3, Tan teaches eighteen test terminals 4 extending a distance above end 5 that is many times greater than the width of a terminal, so as to be attached to by cable connection header 10 (see col. 3, line 50 and Figures 1 and 3). Tan does not teach that these extended terminals may be contact pads or trace pads, but teaches the terminals extending well above end 5 for connection with cable connection header 10 which receives and covers terminals 4, end 5, and part of body 20 (see Figure 3). Hence, for at least the reason above, Appellant respectfully requests the Board overturn the rejection above.

Moreover, Tan does not disclose conductive pads and trace pads surrounding a generally planar surface such that the generally planar surface is accessible to a pick-and-place vacuum force attachment. For instance, in a process according to Tan, first, a test probe is coupled electrically to test equipment; second, an IC device is removed from an IC socket; and then, the test probe takes the place of the IC device in the socket (see col. 1, lines 15-26). First, as noted above and shown in Figures 1-2, terminals 4 of Tan do not surround a generally planar surface. Second, Tan only teaches using cable connection header 10 as the attachment to body 20. Thus, Tan teaches header 10 as the attachment to body 20 (see Tan Fig. 3), but does not teach a planar surface surrounded by conductive pads or trace pads such that the planar surface is accessible, as required by claim 1. Hence, for at least the additional reason above, Appellant respectfully requests the Board overturn the rejection above.

E. Rejection of Claims 8, 11-15 and 17-24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Patent Office rejects claims 8, 11-15, and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,436,570 to Tan (Tan).

1. Claims 8, 11-15 and 17-19

First, Appellant addresses that for the Final Office Action mailed May 9, 2006, the “Examiner reads the test device portion as a second side and the second side as a test device portion”. This is inaccurate. For example, claim 8 requires a first side, and a second side disposed opposite the first side and having a dimension suitable to be removably coupled to a socket. An example of such a second side, without limitation thereto, is found at Figure 2 and paragraph 15 of the application as originally filed which specifies “apparatus 110 having second side 118 having a dimension suitable to be removably coupled to socket 130.” For another example, without limitation thereto, in amended claim 8 “a second side” may be shown by the bottom or second side 118 of apparatus 110, which may include socket contacts (e.g., stimuli transfer zones 112-114 of conduits 122-124) within test device portion 152 of apparatus 110 as shown in Figs. 2-3 of Appellant’s specification. Thus, for at least these reasons, the Patent Office’s misinterpretation of claim 8 is inaccurate and unsupported.

Next, Appellant respectfully disagrees with the rejection above and submits that claims 8, 11-15 and 17-24 (e.g., as claims 11-15 and 17-19 depend from claim 8; and claims 21-24 depend from claim 20) are allowable for at least the reason that the cited reference does not disclose an apparatus having a size that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth of an inner dimension of the cavity as required by claims 8 and 20.

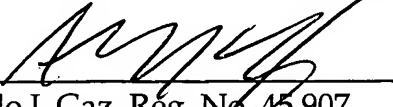
Tan describes a test probe having a test body 20 and test head 22 comprising printed circuit board wall 2, each having a plurality of stainless steel pins 15 embedded therein to contact socket pins of an IC socket (see Abstract; and col. 2, lines 48 through col. 3, lines 20). However, Tan teaches and clearly shows in Figure 4 that head 22 is much greater in depth than the depth of the cavity of socket 21 (e.g., in the vertical direction).

Consequently, the Patent Office has not identified and Appellant is unable to find any teaching or suggestion of the above noted limitations of claims 8 and 20. Hence, for at least the reasons above, Appellant respectfully requests the Board overturn the rejection above.

Hence Appellant respectfully requests the Board overturn the rejections of claims 1-24 and 34-36 as being unpatentable, for at least the reasons noted above.

Respectfully submitted,

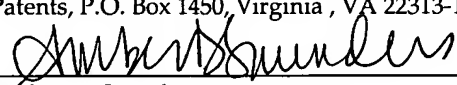
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAEEMAN

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 10/16/06
Amber D. Saunders Date

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

The claims involved in this Appeal are as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
a first side including a generally planar surface and one of conductive pads and trace pads surrounding the generally planar surface such that the generally planar surface is accessible to a pick-and-place vacuum force attachment;
a lid portion including the first side and having a dimension at least large enough to cover or extend over a plurality of contacts of a socket;
a test device portion integral with the lid portion, the test device portion having a plurality of energy conduits to provide a response to a plurality of energy stimuli to a second side disposed opposite the first side.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the lid portion includes a dimension to protect the plurality of contacts from impact, dust, and electrical coupling from the first side.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the energy conduits includes a plurality of stimuli transfer zones to receive a plurality of energy stimuli from the second side and to provide a response to the plurality of energy stimuli to the second side.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the energy conduits are to transfer a plurality of energy stimuli between the second side and the first side.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the stimuli transfer zones are to transfer the energy stimuli between the zones and the contacts by one of electrical contact, electrically capacitive coupling, a thermal coupling, radio frequency

transmission over free space, infrared transmission over free space, and photonic transmission over free space.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the stimuli transfer zones are to couple to the contacts by a coupling without causing a force actuation, compression, or compliance of the contacts.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the stimuli transfer zones are to couple to the contacts by a coupling causing a force actuation, compression, or compliance of the contacts.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a first side forming a generally planar surface and a second side disposed opposite the first side, the second side having a dimension suitable to be removably coupled to a socket;
a lid portion including the first side and having a dimension at least large enough to cover a cavity and a plurality of contacts of the socket;
a test device portion integral with the lid portion, the test device portion having a plurality of energy conduits to receive a plurality of energy stimuli from a plurality of contacts of the socket and to provide a response to the contacts; and
the apparatus having a size that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth of an inner dimension of the cavity.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first side includes one of a generally planar surface adapted to be attached to via a vacuum force attachment to pick up and place the apparatus on the socket, and at least one mechanical attachment point to be mechanically grappled to by a device to pick up and place the apparatus on the socket.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first side includes one of a generally planar surface adapted to be attached to via a vacuum force attachment to pick up and place the apparatus and the socket on a printed circuit board, and at least one mechanical attachment point to be mechanically grappled to by a device to pick up and place the apparatus and the socket on a printed circuit board.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the second side is to removably couple to a socket via at least one of an electronic chip interface, a cantilever, a forced insertion connection, an adhesive, a latch, a retaining lid, a distributed socket loading device, and a physical restraint.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the second side has a plurality of contacts to electrically coupled to the contacts of the socket.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the energy stimuli includes at least one of an electrical energy, a photonic energy, a magnetic energy, a thermal energy, an x-ray energy, an infrared energy, and a radio frequency energy.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the lid portion includes at least one of an alignment groove, an alignment ear, an orienting shape, an indexing pin or pin recepticle.
15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the plurality of energy conduits include at least one of an electrical contact, an electrical conductor, an electrical semiconductor, a silicon chip, an electronic device, an active electronic device, a field effect transistor (FET), an electrical signal trace, a printed circuit board (PCB), an area for receiving photonic energy, a photonic energy conduit, a photonic device, an analog device, a capacitor, a resistor, an inductor, a thermal conduit, and a plurality of capacitors and/or resistors.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the energy conduits include one of conduits disposed within the apparatus between the first side and the second side, and conduits disposed on the first side.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein each conduit has a location and a physical dimension to receive at least one of the plurality of energy stimuli at a first location of the second side and respond to the at least one of the plurality of energy stimuli to the first location or to a second location of the second side.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the energy conduits include contacts on the first side to receive stimuli or to provide a response to stimuli received by the apparatus.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the lid includes a material suitable to protect the plurality of contacts from impact damage, dust, dirt, and additional electrical coupling.

20. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a printed circuit board (PCB);
a socket coupled to the PCB, the socket having a cavity and a plurality of contacts within the cavity to electronically couple to a computing device;
an apparatus removably coupled to the socket, the apparatus comprising:
a lid portion having a dimension at least large enough to cover the cavity;
a test device portion integral with a lid portion, the test device portion having a plurality of energy conduits electronically coupled to the plurality of contacts of the socket to provide a response to the contacts for a plurality of energy stimuli received from the contacts; and the apparatus having a size that is smaller or equal in depth as compared to a depth of an inner dimension of the cavity.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the energy conduits are to respond to a plurality of electronic signals received from the contacts.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the socket has a cavity to removably couple to one of a computing device, an electronic device, an active electronic device, a field effect transistor (FET), a photonic device, an analog device, an electrical contact, an electrical conductor, an electrical semiconductor, and a silicon chip.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the computing device includes one of an electronic device, an active electronic device, a field effect transistor (FET), a photonic device, an analog device, an electrical contact, an electrical conductor, an electrical semiconductor, and a silicon chip.

24. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the lid portion includes a dimension suitable to protect the plurality of contacts from impact, dust, and electrical coupling from the first side.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises a thickness to allow a retainer of the socket to close over the apparatus.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the depth allows a retainer of the socket to close over the apparatus.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the depth allows a retainer of the socket to close over the apparatus.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No evidence is submitted with this appeal.

X. **RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX**

No related proceedings exist.